

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville



A Marriott Renaissance hotel, long-term suites and a fitness center are several aspects to a proposed new development at the corner of Wootton Parkway and Tower Oaks Boulevard.

Tower Oaks Ready For ‘West of Lake’

Plans Call for Hotel, Office Space, Health Club, Banquet Facility

The Tower Companies, original developers of Tower Oaks, which includes an award-winning landmark building readily visible from I-270, are seeking permission to construct a 300-room hotel, 198,400 square feet of office space, a full service health club and a banquet/ballroom facility of up to 6,000 square feet.

The proposed “West of Lake” complex at the southeast corner of Wootton Parkway and Tower Oaks Boulevard would exhibit the “green building” characteristics that won numerous environmental awards for the original Tower Building at Tower Oaks.

All of the aspects of the planned construction, which were presented to the Mayor and Council in April, will be inter-related. The Mayor and Council must grant approval of the building design before the developer can file a detailed application to proceed.

Marriott International will be the operator of the complex that would include a Renaissance Hotel. The hotel would be a maximum of 125 feet high and would include about 100 long-term suites that would be owned.

“We feel this will keep Tower Oaks at the cutting edge of design,” said William Kominers, the attorney representing the developer.

The health club would have indoor and outdoor pools, a basketball court and would provide childcare while parents work out.

The office building is already one-third pre-leased as the Tower Companies and Lerner Enterprises—partners in the development—would move their headquarters to the complex.

The proposed plans follow the original concept plans for Tower Oaks that date back more than 15 years.

Kominers said the developers have an ambitious construction plan in that, if the plans are approved, they hope to get started by the end of 2006 and have the hotel open in two to two-and-a-half years.

Kominers said the overall complex would be one of about 50 that Marriott International would like to build nationwide. “This is a new lifestyle concept” for Marriott International, he said. “This will be the prototype.” **RR**

Town Center Traffic Workshop Will Be Held Tuesday, May 24

A workshop on proposed traffic measures for the Town Center area will be held on Tuesday, May 24, from 7-9 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School.

At the workshop, citizens will be asked to review speeding and cut-through traffic problems identified by volunteers who live in areas within or near Town Center. Citizens also can offer new ideas on how to protect adjacent communities from excessive traffic.

Discussion will include traffic flow on Rockville streets. Citizens

will be asked to help identify how traffic calming measures may affect the flow of traffic throughout the entire area.

Following the workshop, Rockville’s appointed Traffic and Transportation Commission will discuss proposed ideas that may reduce speeding and cut-through traffic in neighborhoods.

For more information, or to make a suggestion concerning Town Center traffic issues, contact Katherine Kelly of Rockville’s Transportation Division at kkelly@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8527. **RR**



“STEELE-ING” A GLANCE AT ROCKVILLE’S PROGRESS... Maryland Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele (fourth from left) and several top state officials visited Rockville on Wednesday, May 11. Among the places they toured was the new Rockville Town Square construction site. Those hosting Steele and the officials included Rockville Mayor Larry Giammo (third from left) and Councilmembers John Hall, Jr. (second from right) and Bob Dorsey (far right).

Mayor and Council Focus Upcoming Agenda Items to Watch

May 23

- **Upper Rock District Mixed Use Development:** Possible adoption of preliminary development plan
- **Town Center Roadway Capacity Study:** Briefing by staff and a consultant

June 6

- **Twinbrook Commons:** Possible annexation into the City of 16.9 acres around Twinbrook Metro Station
 - **Report on Affordable Housing**
- June 13**
- **Adoption of FY 2006 Budget**

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Hometown Holidays Set For May 28-30

Rockville is gearing up for the Washington, D.C. area’s largest Memorial Day Weekend celebration, Hometown Holidays, which will feature three days of live music, tempting treats, arts and crafts and more from May 28-30. This year’s celebration is sure to be one of the most memorable in the City’s history.

Headlining the weekend’s entertainment will be the chart-topping group “Hootie and the Blowfish” performing a free concert on the main stage in Town Center on Saturday night, May 28.

The weekend also will include the Taste of Rockville, which features food from about 30 area restaurants on Saturday; the Rockville Art Festival on Saturday and Sunday; the first annual Rockville Flower and Garden Show on Sunday; and the annual “Ride for Rockville” city bike tour on Sunday. The 61st annual Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade concludes the weekend on Monday.

Town Center main stage entertainment on Saturday will include singer-songwriter Lea (12:30 p.m.); country singer Marge Calhoun (3 p.m.); the Hula Monsters, a swing band with a Hawaiian flavor (5:30 p.m.); and Last Train Home (7 p.m.). Hootie and the Blowfish will play at 9 p.m. Fireworks follow the final Saturday concert.

For detailed information on the festivities, see the special insert in this edition of *Rockville Reports*. **RR**

June’s Best of Rockville

June 5

“Sculpture on the Grounds” Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit Opening reception: 1 p.m. Glenview Mansion. FREE. This outdoor exhibit runs June through October. 240-314-8681

June 18

Twinbrook Recreation Center’s Father’s Day Sports Party. Crafts, games and refreshments. Saturday from 2-4 p.m. \$10 per resident, \$12 for non-residents. Call 240-314-8830 for more information.



June 28

Kids, Parks, Performing Arts Starts Series of performances, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., in various Rockville parks from June 28-Aug. 9. On June 28, “Goombay - The Caribbean Experience” (left) will appear at King Farm Park. FREE. Rain site: Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8682.

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City Projects UPDATE

RECREATION & PARKS

GENERAL PROJECTS

Asphalt/Concrete • Seal Elwood Smith parking lot in early June.

Athletic Courts • Seal and color coat Hillcrest basketball and tennis courts in August.

City Hall Improvements • Reorganization and renovation of second and third floor interior spaces of City Hall for improved use efficiencies • Construction has been completed in the Finance and Personnel departments • Construction has begun in Community Planning and Development Services • The project is expected to be completed in February 2006.

Civic Center Long Range Plan • Feasibility study underway to identify adequate and accessible parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and stormwater management on the Civic Center grounds • Study and design recommendations to be completed this summer.

Community Gym Contribution • Contribute \$200,000 to Montgomery County Public Schools for a community size gymnasium at College Gardens Elementary School to be built during the school’s renovation.

Croydon Creek Nature Center • Lower level improvements in design phase • Construction bids to be sent out in June.

Energy Performance Contract • Energy savings project for City facilities through the Maryland Energy Administration’s energy performance contract • Planning and installation of the energy management system is 95 percent complete.

Fallsgrove Park/School Site • Grading in progress • Playground equipment in design phase.

Gude Drive Facility Improvements • Modernization and expansion of the City’s Public Works and Parks maintenance complex in four phases • Phase I includes replacement of salt dome, stormwater management upgrades, access improvements and improved debris storage • Construction documents ready to be sent to bidders.

I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 grant for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Bids received exceeded budget • Awaiting SHA approval to advertise revised project • Construction bids due during the summer • Construction to begin this fall.

King Farm Farmstead • Contract to stabilize the pole barn has been awarded • Work to begin this summer • Work will be in compliance with task force recommendations and with Historic District Commission approvals.

Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park • Details of the park plan have been completed with comments from the public and the Recreation and Park Advisory Board • Design complete and being reviewed by WSSC and Department of Public Works • Groundbreaking set for Saturday, June 18.

Dog Park • Final design has been incorporated into the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park • Rockville Dog Owners Group (RDOG) will continue to participate in the planning process.

Millennium Trail • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road • Construction has been completed • Veirs Mill Road to West Edmonston Drive bids for construction opened in May • Con-

struction to begin during the summer • Majority of cost for both projects covered by TEA-21 grants awarded by SHA.

Playground Equipment Improvements • Design is underway for replacement playground equipment at Bullards Park and Horizon Hills Park • Neighborhood children are providing input to design.

Town Center Public Art • Nine public art opportunities have been identified within the Town Square development • Call for entries will be nationally and locally advertised and directly sent to more than 2,000 artists by the end of May.

Thomas Farm Community Center • DCMM Architects have been hired to design the center • First public meeting to be held June 9 at 7 p.m. at Rockville Senior Center.

Urban Forest Renewal • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook, Fallsmead, Potomac Woods and other neighborhoods is ongoing • Replacement plantings are complete for this spring and will resume in the fall.

PUBLIC WORKS

TRANSPORTATION

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements • Nelson Street park access design includes a pedestrian refuge island at Nelson/Crocus; a pedestrian beacon will be added at Nelson/Azalea. Construction is scheduled for this summer.

Fallsgrove-Funded Transportation Improvements • Majority of the projects are complete • Those yet to be finished include Gude Drive and Gaither Road (underway); I-270, Maryland Route 28 and Nelson Street (underway) • I-270 and Shady Grove Road (to be determined).

Watts Branch Parkway Traffic Calming • Construction of the improvement at Aintree Drive is underway.

STREAM AND STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Alsace Lane Stream Restoration • Design underway on 500 feet of stream in the Rock Creek drainage area • Construction planned for summer 2006.

Carnation/I-270 SWM Retrofit • Modify existing stormwater management facilities to implement stream erosion control and improve water quality in Watts Branch drainage area • Design underway • Construction planned for summer.

College Gardens Low Impact Design (LID) SWM Study • Surveys distributed to residents in October • Consultants are evaluating various LID techniques on public and private property to improve Watts Branch water quality and reduce runoff • Update meeting to discuss possible LID projects with the community was held in January.

College Gardens Low Impact Design (LID) SWM Grant Implementation • College Gardens Civic Association (CGCA) is planning to distribute several more rain barrels. In conjunction with the College Gardens Garden Club, the CGCA is looking to implement LID techniques on private property.

North Horners Lane Stream Improvement • 200 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Construction to begin in July.

Northeast Park Stormwater Management Retrofit • Modernize and rehabilitate two SWM facilities in the Rock Creek drainage area. Design is complete. Construction will start in August and is expected to be completed by the end of February 2006.

RedGate Golf Course Stormwater Management Retrofits • Modify existing SWM facilities and improve 600 feet of stream in Rock Creek drainage area • Design is

complete • Construction planned for summer.

Woottons Mill Stream Improvement • 4,400 feet of stream restoration is under construction • Stream restoration is from Watts Branch Parkway to Wootton Parkway in Woottons Mill Park • Pedestrian access will continue • Construction will be completed in January 2006.

UTILITIES

Adclare Water Main Replacement • Approximately 1,500 feet of six-inch water main in Adclare Road will be replaced with 12-inch water main • Design has started and construction is expected to begin in spring 2006.

North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement • Water main upgrade is now complete.

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping for the southeastern area of Twinbrook, has been completed and the results are being evaluated • Prioritization of repairs will be based on cost effectiveness • Schedule for construction has not been set.

WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Glen Mill Pump Station • Project will provide the additional pumping capacity needed to provide sufficient water supply to the entire Rockville water system • Construction started last fall and will be completed in September.

Water Treatment Plant • Major upgrade in the treatment plant to allow a maximum daily production of 14 million gallons is essentially complete • An emergency generator will be added • Improvements to sludge handling facilities are being studied.



Focus on BEACON OF SAFETY

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, “Focus On” will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

‘Beacon of Safety’ Can Save Lives

City of Rockville Police and the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, who often team up to lend a ray of hope in emergency situations, are combining their resources to bring a “Beacon of Safety” to City



Rockville is the first jurisdiction in the Washington area to provide innovative emergency light bulbs to residents who could be in need of emergency services.

residents who might someday find themselves needing help. More than 60 residents have participated in the program since it began in September 2004.

The bulbs, which are installed in regular outdoor porch sockets or in indoor lamps near front windows, flash continuously when activated. By being able to easily find a home that has placed an emergency call, the Beacon of Safety could be a lifesaver.

“When activated, this flashing bulb will easily distinguish a home that has placed a call for help,” said Rockville Chief of Police Terry Treschuk. “Even if the program saves just one minute, it could be the difference between life and death.”

To receive a free bulb, call 240-314-8922. [RR](#)



GOOD DEEDS EARN FREE BIKES...
Fifty children between the ages of 4 and 16 learned that Character Counts! through a unique City program that awards a free bicycle for children who perform acts of good character. Eagle Scout Will Eaton led Boy Scout Troop No. 1475 in refurbishing the donated bikes last winter.

Stepanek Park Groundbreaking Set for June 18

Mattie J.T. Stepanek will be honored for his remarkable contributions through his poetry, crusade for world peace and overall enthusiasm for life, at a ground-breaking ceremony for a 26.2-acre park to be named in his honor on Saturday, June 18.

The ceremony, which will be open to the public, will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the corner of Crestfield Drive and Piccard Drive near Shady Grove Road.

The event will be followed by a reception at the King Farm Community Center.

The Mayor and Council in April unanimously voted to name the future 26.2-acre park in King Farm as Mattie J.T.

Stepanek Park after the remarkable resident who died in June 2004, a month before his 14th birthday.

He was the author of several books, each of which reached the New York Times bestseller list. He was a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show and former President Jimmy Carter was among his worldwide admirers.

Even more remarkable about Mattie's achievements is that he made such a difference despite a long struggle with a rare muscular disease. For the last three years of his life, Mattie lived at King Farm with his mother, Jeni. He was a well-known figure, patrolling the



Mattie J.T. Stepanek. He made a remarkable impact.

community in his wheelchair.

"At first you might think that naming a park has nothing to do with peace," Jeni Stepanek told the Mayor and Council in April. "But if Mattie was here, he would say it has everything to do with it. . . . Mattie believed you must play after every storm." **RR**

Fallsgrove To Get Community Center

First Meeting for Public Input June 9

A public meeting to discuss plans for the first Rockville community center west of I-270 will be held on Thursday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at the Rockville Senior Center.

At the meeting, plans will be discussed for the Thomas Farm Community Center, a 15,000 square foot recreation facility that will be located at the intersection of West Montgomery Avenue and West Gude Drive in the Fallsgrove development.

The center, which is named for the farm that existed on the site, will be constructed on public parkland originally identified for a community center during planning for the new Fallsgrove community.

The center's amenities may include a gymnasium, multi-

purpose rooms, a learning center with computers, a fitness room, locker rooms, a kitchenette, offices storage and parking.

Construction is expected to start in January 2006 with the center opening the following year.

Residents are invited to the public meeting on June 9 to help determine how the center will be used and to volunteer to participate on a task force that will meet during the design process. The task

force will review and comment on the facility and site design, address budgetary challenges and other design issues.

For more information, contact Burt Hall, director of Rockville Parks and Recreation, at 240-314-8602. **RR**

NEXT STEP

✓ Public Meeting to review design options: June 9, 7 p.m. Senior Center

Se acerca la Fiesta de la Ciudad: 28 al 30 de mayo

La Ciudad se prepara para la conmemoración más grande del fin de semana del Día de los Caídos en el área de Washington, DC: la Fiesta de la Ciudad. Serán tres días de música viva, atracciones tentadoras, arte y artesanías, desde el sábado 28 de mayo hasta el lunes 30 de mayo. Con toda seguridad, la celebración de este año será una de las más memorables en la historia de la Ciudad.

El grupo *Hootie and the Blow-*

fish, que goza de gran popularidad, encabezará el entretenimiento del fin de semana con un concierto gratuito en el escenario principal del centro de la Ciudad a las 9 de la noche del sábado 28 de mayo.

Los festejos del fin de semana también incluirán el *Test of Rockville*, donde se podrán saborear las comidas de cerca de 30 restaurantes del área el sábado, así como el Festival de

Arte de Rockville, el sábado y domingo; la primera Exposición Anual de la Flor y el Jardín, el domingo; el Paseo Anual en Bicicleta por la Ciudad de Rockville, el domingo, y la 61. Ceremonia y Desfile Anual del Día de los Caídos, el lunes. Para obtener información detallada sobre todas las festividades, vea el apéndice especial en esta edición de *Rockville Reports*. **RR**

— Translated by Victoria Imas-Duchovney

Traffic Patterns Change in Town Center *Beall Ave. Reopens; Part of Maryland Ave. Closed*

As Rockville Town Square construction progresses, traffic patterns around the site have changed to allow for infrastructure improvements related to redevelopment of the downtown area.

Construction of the mixed-use Town Square development, which is bordered to the north by Beall Avenue, to the south by East Middle Lane, to the west by North Washington Street and to the east by Rockville Pike, in

April and May led to a portion of Beall Avenue being closed so a water line and storm drain system could be installed. That road reopened on May 13. In mid-May, a short section of Maryland Ave. (between East Middle Lane and East Montgomery Avenue) was closed for infrastructure improvements on that side of Town Square. That intersection is expected to reopen in June.

Infrastructure installation is crucial to construction of all Town Square development, which is rapidly taking shape.

In May, the first significant vertical components being built became evident. The first retail level construction in Block 5, as well as structural steel for the new Rockville Regional Library, showed the early beginnings of a new look for the area's landscape.

The schedule calls for the first buildings in Town Square to open in summer 2006. **RR**



BEAM ME UP... The first columns come out of the ground in construction of new buildings along East Middle Lane in Town Center. Progress continues on the Rockville Town Square development, as shown in this view on May 11.

City Hall Changes Ongoing: *Personnel, IT, Finance In Renovated Spaces*

Spring has sprung, and so has new office space for many City Hall employees as progress continues on the building's interior renovation.

Staff of the Information and Technology, Finance and Personnel departments have settled into their refurbished spaces.

Personnel is now located on the opposite side of the second floor from its previous location. Most of the Finance and IT departments are in the same locations before construction started.

Bathrooms on the third floor have been renovated and are now open.

A stairway connecting the first, second and third floors, and an emergency exit stairway in the back of City Hall, are undergoing construction.

As workers move into the second floor, some staff in Community Planning and Development Services and Public Works will be relocated to temporary offices in early summer and fall, respectively. Each renovation is expected to take three to four months.

Visitors are reminded to please avoid entering construction areas. **RR**

Rockville Gets New Finance Director

Gavin Cohen, Rockville's new finance director, started at his position on May 9.

Cohen, who has 15 years of finance management experience, was the former finance director of the City of Solana Beach in Southern California. Cohen is a native of South Africa who moved to California in 1991. He is married to Ilana and has three boys Ryan, 5, Daniel, 7, and Michael, 9.

"I was attracted to Rockville because it has so much to offer both personally and professionally," he said. "The new Rockville Town Center will have such a significant



Gavin Cohen

impact on the City. I am looking forward to managing the financial aspect of the project. In addition, the City has much to offer families. My family and I are looking forward to our future here." **RR**

Fun with Dad at Twinbrook Rec.

Sports Party Will Be Spirited On June 18

Sons and daughters will celebrate Dad in a unique way at the first ever Father's Day Sports Party at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, Saturday, June 18, from 2-4 p.m.

Participants are invited to show their team spirit by wearing their favorite team hat, jersey or other wear.

Along with playing a variety of games such as father/child relays, soccer ball kicking, football tossing and basketball dribbling, kids can make pennants for their favorite team, decorate a frame and take a photo with Dad. Light refreshments are included and prizes will be



The annual Mother's Day Princess Tea Party drew more than 100 guests (including the one above) to the Twinbrook Recreation Center in May. This year, the center is adding a special Father's Day Celebration on June 18.

awarded. The cost is \$10 per resident; \$12 for nonresidents.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Both must pay the fee. [RR](#)

Swim Center Kicks Off Anti-Smoking Campaign

The Rockville Swim Center, the City's premiere swim center dedicated to promoting health and fitness, is teaming up with a statewide campaign to encourage anti-smoking. The center will kick-off its new partnership with the "Maryland Smoking Stops HERE" campaign on Saturday, June 18, from 1-7 p.m.

The event will feature games, giveaways and free admission to the Swim Center

by signing up for the campaign's HERE Club Card. The card is free and recipients can easily receive one by agreeing to remain tobacco-free.

Along with half-price admission on the second Saturday of every month at the Swim Center, cardholders can receive discounts at other retailers in Maryland such as Subway, Golds Gym, Cingular and Arundel Mills Mall.

Those interested in the Smoking Stops HERE campaign can sign up for the program at the Swim Center anytime beginning in June.

For a complete list of discounts and more information, visit www.smokingstopshere.com. To contact the swim center about the program, call Bethany Fowler at 240-314-8574. [RR](#)



Deadline Nears for Good Neighbor Awards

Recognize Selfless Citizens by Nominating Deserving Residents

Neighbors helping neighbors — that is what the Rockville community spirit is all about.

Often, the countless selfless acts of shoveling snow for others, mowing lawns and sharing meals have gone unnoticed. However, for the last three years, Rockville's Mayor and Council have been honoring citizens for exceptional good deeds.

Nominations are due for the fourth annual Mayor and Council Good Neighbor Awards program by Monday, July 11. Any adult or youth who has made exceptional contributions to improve the quality of life in their Rockville neighborhood may be nominated for the award.

Each nominee must be a resident of Rockville, must have



made their significant contribution between July 2004 and June 2005, must have demonstrated efforts beyond the scope of citizen responsibilities and must have demonstrated concern for their neighborhood or quality of life in Rockville. City employees are not eligible for the award and family members cannot nominate each other.

"Each year we are continu-

ously 'wowed' by the heartwarming stories of neighbors helping neighbors," said Neighborhood Resources Coordinator Dwayne Jenkins, who is overseeing the awards program. "There's no incentive or payment for their good deeds. It's just the best of human nature, pure and simple."

Last year, the Mayor and Council rewarded 31 "Good Neighbors" with awards during a televised ceremony.

To nominate someone for exceptional service during this year's award period, submit a completed nomination to Jenkins at 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. The form and more information are available at www.rockville.md.gov/residents/ncs/gnaward.htm or by calling 240-314-8343. [RR](#)

Low-Income Homeowners Can Apply for Tax Credits

The City has initiated a major campaign to encourage all eligible homeowners to apply for its new Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program.

The program supplements the State of Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit program that allows credits against the homeowner's property tax bill by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes any homeowner must pay based upon his or her income.

The state plan has been in existence since 1975 when it was known as the "circuit breaker" plan. The plan was called circuit breaker because it "shuts off" the property tax bill at a certain point—just like an electric circuit breaker shuts off the current when the circuit becomes overloaded.

The state program allows for pro-rated savings, depending upon the homeowner's income. Rockville homeowners who qualify for the state program automatically will be credited with an additional 35 percent in savings on their City of Rockville property tax.

Under the state plan, households with combined gross income of \$35,000 or less may be eligible for the program.

To be considered for the program:

- Applicants must own or have a legal interest in the property
- The dwelling on which the tax credit is being sought

must be the applicant's principal residence where he or she lives at least six months of the year, including July 1 (unless he or she is a recent home purchaser or unless he or she is unable to do so because of health or need of special care)

- The applicant's net worth, not including the value of the property on which the credit is being sought, must be less than \$200,000

There are several other aspects of the plan, including that only the taxes resulting from the first \$150,000 of assessed valuation—less any Homestead Tax Credit—are eligible for the tax credit.

Homeowners must sign up by Sept. 1 to get tax credits for the current year. Credit due will be issued either in the form of a revised tax bill or as a tax credit certificate to be used in payment of the bill. A refund check will be issued if the tax bill was paid before the tax credit was granted.

An application is routinely sent to homeowners who were recipients of a state tax credit in the previous year. However, the Homeowners' Tax Credit is not automatically granted. To qualify for the state and Rockville tax credit programs, call the City's Department of Finance at 240-314-8400 or the (toll free) 1-800-944-7403. Information also is available at the MDAT Web site at www.dat.state.md.us. [RR](#)



ROCKVILLE POLICE KEEPING THE FAITH... Mayor Larry Giammo (left) presents new Rockville Police Chaplain Stan Nelson with an official City of Rockville Police badge. Nelson is the first police chaplain in more than two decades and will be responsible for advising the chief on ministerial issues, serving as liaison to local ministry, and assisting police officers with untimely death notifications.

INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the City Government at Work

Akridge Development Approved

Rockville’s revitalization of its Town Center took another major step on May 2 when the Mayor and Council approved a resolution that will enable the Akridge Development Company to build a mixed-use development of 485 condominiums, restaurants with sidewalk dining and retail stores on what is now a surface parking lot across from the Regal Cinemas and restaurant row on East Montgomery Avenue.

Approval of the complex development plan came after months of negotiations in which the Mayor and Council asked the developer to make significant changes to its original proposal.

The Akridge Development will fill the open space between the busy block that includes Regal Cinemas and numerous restaurants — and the new

Rockville Town Square development currently under construction.

The Akridge development will be built in two phases, with each phase physically separated by a new street that the developer proposes as “Renaissance Street.”

In 1994, the then-owner of the properties was given approval for an office complex that could have had buildings as tall as 22 stories. However, with the residence market hotter than the current office space market, Akridge sought a change in use.

In September, Akridge (under the name of Rockville Renaissance West, LLC) made its first formal proposal for the site. Since then, a public hearing, numerous public meetings and work with City staff resulted in the proposal that was adopted.

Modifications in that proposal from one that had been presented on April 11 include:

- A maximum of 485 residences (down from 500 in the April 11 proposal)
- The maximum heights of the tallest buildings would be 144 feet (about 14 stories) along Maryland Avenue and 173 feet (about 17 stories) along Monroe Street (each decreases of one story from April 11)
- Construction would not begin prior to July 1, 2006
- Fifty percent of the moderately-price dwelling units will be marketed to senior citizens.

Earlier revisions in the project called for sidewalks as wide as 20 feet on some blocks that would allow restaurants the opportunity to offer outside dining. **RR**

Compensation Commission: Mayor and Council Deserve Increases

The Rockville Compensation Commission, the appointed five-member board of residents that meets every two years to determine the compensation paid to members of the Mayor and Council, has recommended increases for the next Mayor and Council that the commission believes more properly reflect the time and demands currently placed upon the City’s elected officials.

In a worksession with the Mayor and Council on May 9, commission members explained why they recommended that the compensation for the next mayor increase to \$25,000 (from the current \$16,421) and the

compensation for the members of the Council that take office after the November elections increase to \$20,000 (from the current \$13,200). In addition, the report recommended an automatic increase of three percent to go in effect for FY 2007.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to address the recommendations at their meeting of Monday, May 23. At that meeting, the Mayor and Council could decide to take no action on the recommendations, which would mean they would go into

effect immediately after the Nov. 8 election. The Mayor and Council could pass a resolution to accept the recommendations or could reject all or part of the recommendation. If they reject the recommendations, they could set figures between the current compensation and what has been recommended.

NEXT STEP

- ✓ Consideration of recommendations: Monday, May 23, City Hall, 7 p.m.

In its report, the commission members said they “thoroughly discussed the fact that, although the City consistently pays its senior staff and directors salaries at a level thought to attract the best in their field, the City has not used the same standard concerning our elected officials.” **RR**

John Hall, Jr. Not Seeking Re-election

Two-term City of Rockville Councilmember John Hall, Jr. will not run for re-election in the November 2005 election. Hall, an attorney and senior executive for NASA, made the announcement at a May general session.

Hall said the main reason he will not seek re-election is because his son, Jan, 13, is coming to live with him fulltime and will be starting as a freshman at Richard Montgomery High School in the fall. Jan currently attends school in Poland and lives with his mother, Malgorzata Babiuch-Hall.

Hall said his son will be making a major adjustment, and the demands of serving on the Council would not allow him to devote the required time to both Jan and the elected position.

“It has been my great privilege and honor to serve the people of Rockville as their Councilmember during the past two terms, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way,” Hall said. **RR**

State Presents Plans for New District Court

The State of Maryland has given Rockville a brief glimpse of a new nine-court, six-story high District Courthouse it intends to build on the site of the current Rockville Regional Library.

The building would fill most of the block surrounded by Maryland Route 28 (East Jefferson Street), Maryland Avenue and Vinson Street (neighboring Rockville City Hall and the Montgomery County Council Building) and would contain about 160,000 square feet. At its highest point, it would be about 100 feet from Maryland Avenue. The building would only have underground parking for specific employees.

The site currently is occupied by the library, which will move to a new building that is part of the Rockville Town Square development now under construction in Rockville Town Center. The timetable calls for the new library to open in summer 2006 and work on the new courthouse to begin soon thereafter.

The Mayor and Council told the court representatives that they had a number of concerns with the plans including the overall height, where court users would park, the safety of pedestrians and landscaping. **RR**



Mayor
Larry Giammo



Councilmember
Robert E. (Bob) Dorsey



Councilmember
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the date below. Call the City Clerk’s Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, the Councilmember scheduled for June is:

- **Monday, June 20: Bob Dorsey**

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), and are available on streaming video at: www.rockvillemd.gov. Citizens may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the “Citizens Forum” portion at most general session meetings. All meetings are subject to change.

- **June 6 (Mon.)** Worksession (Affordable Housing; Rockville Housing Enterprises update), 7 p.m.
- **June 13 (Mon.)** General Session (FY 06 Budget Adoption) 7 p.m.
- **June 20 (Mon.)** Worksession (Tree Management policies for City Forest Preserves), 7 p.m.

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Cultural Arts Commission (one)
- Environment Commission (one)
- Human Rights Commission (three)
- Recreation and Parks Board (one-student)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (one-consumer)
- Rockville Scholarship Foundation (one)
- Rockville Sister City Corp. (one)
- Traffic and Transportation (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.



HOTELS HEADED FOR FALLSGROVE? The developers of the Falls Grove development in northwest Rockville are seeking a change in the concept plan of the community that would allow 125,000 to 150,000 square feet of originally designated office space to be used instead as an extended-stay Hilton Homewood Suites and a shorter-stay Garden Inn Hotel (a sketch of the proposal is above). Part of the request also seeks the possibility of adding a child care facility and conversion of an originally designated multi-family residential building at the intersection of Woodhill Road and West Montgomery Avenue into a three- or four-story office building. Opinions on the requested changes were varied at a May 2 public hearing before the Mayor and Council. The request is expected to be addressed by the Mayor and Council at a meeting on June 6.

Play Ball! Rockville Express Takes To Knights' Field

With the arrival of the Washington Nationals, baseball fever has spread quickly around Washington. But the Nationals aren't the only new team in the area.

Rockville will welcome its first collegiate level summer league baseball team, the Rockville Express, during festive opening day ceremonies on Saturday, June 11, at 4 p.m. at Knights' Field at Montgomery College in Rockville.

"Baseball is coming back in a big way," said Jonathan Rogers, assistant general manager. "We're looking forward to a great first season."

"Baseball is coming back in a big way"

— Jonathan Rogers,
Assistant General Manager
of the Rockville Express

The Rockville Express is one of several teams taking part in the inaugural season of the Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate Baseball League.

The Maryland-based league uses wooden bats (the only bats allowed in professional baseball) and will play 40 regular season games plus playoffs. The league has drawn some of the best college players from around the country including top local talent. Matt Swissman, a Wootton High School graduate now attending St. Mary's College of Maryland, will play in the league.

In its first year, the league

will be made up of six teams including the Bethesda Big Train, the Silver Spring Thunderbolts and the Maryland Orioles.

Rockville Express home games will be played at the newly renovated baseball field at Montgomery College.

The Rockville Express is looking for homes and summer jobs for the players who will be arriving on June 3 and will stay until Aug. 8. If you have an interest in hosting a player, please contact Host Family Coordinator Andrea Oliver at 301-831-6567 or e-mail Todlinks@aol.com.

For more information about the new team, including a complete schedule, visit www.rockvilleexpress.org. **RR**



Concert Band Grills Summer Outdoor Series

The sounds of Sousa, Holst and other renown composers can be heard throughout the year inside the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, but for the first time since the theatre was constructed, popular foot-tapping tunes will be heard *outside* of the theatre through a new summer concert series offered by the Rockville Concert Band.

The band's first "Patio Performance" will be Tuesday, June 21, from 7-8 p.m. behind the theatre. The free summer, family-friendly entertainment will include some of the best live performances of classical, popular and Broadway show tunes by the 75-member band.

The events also will provide the opportunity to explore the lush grounds of Rockville Civic Center Park and enjoy the annual "Sculpture on The Grounds" outdoor art exhibit.

"This unique opportunity to experience art and music among the beauty of Rockville Civic Center Park is something everyone should take advantage of," said Vince Patterson, director of the Rockville Concert Band. "Sitting on the grass or in a lawn chair and listening to familiar music played live by so many talented performers is sure to be relaxing and fun for the whole family."

In addition, those who are proficient on an instrument and who are college-age or older, are invited to perform with the band for one or more



"Orchid" by Jordan Cohen will be on display as part of the annual "Sculpture on the Grounds" exhibit in Civic Center Park, where the Rockville Concert Band outdoor performances will take place.

of the summer shows.

Future Summer Patio Performances are planned for Tuesdays, July 19, and Aug. 2, at the same time and place. For more information or to participate in an upcoming performance, call 240-314-8681. **RR**

Budding Ballet Dancers Perform Free on Sat., June 4

More than 100 budding ballet dancers will perform a free recital on Saturday, June 4, at 1 p.m. at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

"Raymonda," a classic fairy tale, culminates the students' participation in the City's ballet classes, which have been popular with generations of Rockville families.

"There are many performers who have grown up in these classes," said Claudia Mangan, instructor and director of the performance. "It's fun to see the youth dancing together, all at different levels, but all giving their best. Many of our finest dancers in the Rockville Civic Ballet have learned how to dance through these classes."

"Raymonda" is a free performance but tickets are required and can be obtained

by calling the F. Scott Fitzgerald Box Office at 240-314-8690.

Registration for seasonal pre-ballet and ballet class of-

ferings for children ages 4 through teens is available at www.rockvillemd.gov (click on RockEnroll) or by calling 240-314-8620. **RR**



Students prepare for the recital "Raymonda" in the City's dance class studio in the Twinbrook neighborhood.

'Evocative Surface' at Glenview Gallery In June

Four Frederick County artists will display their explorations of the evidence of human touch through a variety of media on display at Glenview Mansion's Art Gallery from June 5-18.

The exhibit "The Evocative Surface" features works by Karen Birch, Steven Dobbin, Phyllis Jacobs and Doug Moulden. Their art ranges in size and material from large plaster, wood and metal sculptures to hand embroidery and

beadwork on linen.

The exhibit's opening reception on Sunday, June 5, from 1-4 p.m. will include a performance by the U.S. Navy Band Chamber Ensemble at 2 p.m.

An artist talk will be held Thursday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m. and a guided tour of the exhibit will take place on Friday, June 17, at 10 a.m.

All events are free. For more information, call 240-314-8682. **RR**



"Flying Snow" is an acrylic painting by Phyllis Jacobs featured in the June exhibit.

Drop In and Play:

Summer Playgrounds Program Now Registering

Advanced registration is underway for children who wish to participate in supervised playground activities at 10 of the area's play sites this summer.

Children ages 6 through 12 can drop in and experience fun and enriching arts, crafts, sports, games, field trips and much more. (Note: Five-year-olds entering first grade this fall are eligible to participate.)

Special activities, including weekly swim trips to the Rockville Swim Center, can be added to the regular playground program.

An interactive playtime for young children and their parents is available through C.L.I.C.K. (Creative Learning In Crafts for Kids.) Pre-schoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their parents enjoy a one-hour story and art and crafts session two days each week.

Registration is \$15 for residents; \$20 for nonresidents.

Students participating in the Twinbrook Elementary School Summer Adventure can end their day with a fun note through the Twinbrook Playground program. A special rate and accommodations will be made for students after school dismissal. The playground program runs 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. and the fee is \$25 per resident child, \$40 for non-residents and is only available to students enrolled in the Twinbrook Summer Adventure.

In addition to the special programs, all regular playground activities start Monday, June 27 and end Thursday, Aug. 4. Advanced registration is required and is \$40 per child for residents, \$190 for non-residents.

For information call, 240-314-8633. **RR**

In Brief

Rockville's Camps Make Summer Cool

Opportunities to participate in Rockville's Summer Camps scheduled to begin in June are still available. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov and click on Rock Enroll, pick up a Summer Camps Guide, or call for more information.

CALL **240-314-8620** FOR INFO

Yoga for a Cause

Thrive Yoga, a Rockville-based yoga studio located at 1321 Rockville Pike, will join in the fight against Breast Cancer by donating the proceeds of its yoga classes on Sunday, June 5, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. New and experienced yoga students are welcome.

The event will include free food and giveaways. Pre-registration is required by calling 301-294-YOGA. Visit www.thriveyoga.com for more details.

CALL **301-294-9642** FOR INFO

Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit Starts June 5

The lush green grass surrounding Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park will serve as a canvas again this year for local artists during the 17th Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit Juried Regional Artists Show. Beginning with an opening reception and walking tour on Sunday, June 5, at 1 p.m., the free outdoor art exhibit will be sure to wow area art lovers through Oct. 16.

CALL **240-314-8681** FOR INFO

New Community Garden Committee

A new committee is being formed to examine potential sites for additional community gardens in the City.

The Rockville Community Garden Committee (RCGC) will work with neighborhoods to see where new gardens would be welcome, choose potential sites and help bring the gardens into service.

A Rockville citizen, Carl Henn, has volunteered to organize RCGC. To participate,

contact Henn at 301-251-0310 or by e-mail at carlhenn@comcast.net.

CALL **301-521-0310** FOR INFO

Montgomery County Heritage Day June 25

Peerless Rockville invites area history lovers to tour the 1891 Red Brick Courthouse and discover the Rockville of early settlers, Civil War generals and F. Scott Fitzgerald on the Eighth Annual Montgomery County Heritage Day, Saturday, June 25, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Open houses, walking tours, an exhibit of Colonial Rockville and refreshments are among the activities. The free, countywide Heritage Day features more than 30 sites where people can explore local history. For more information visit www.peerlessrockville.org.

CALL **301-762-0096** FOR INFO

Lifeguard Classes Available

Anyone age 15 years or older who wishes to become certified to lifeguard at a pool facility should



HEAD OUT FOR LUNCH... “*Out to Lunch Wednesdays*,” the City’s annual summer lunch-time concert and Farmers’ Market series, will begin June 1. Each Wednesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., enjoy free music and fresh produce, breads and more on East Montgomery Avenue near Regal Cinemas. For more information, call 240-314-5022.

register for the Rockville Swim Center’s Lifeguard Training in June.

Participants must pass an endurance swimming pre-test to qualify for the four-day program, which teaches lifeguarding, standard first aid and CPR for the professional rescuer. The pre-test is on Wednesday, June 8, from 8-

9:30 p.m.

Upon passing the test, students must attend all of the classes on the following days to receive their official certification: June 9 and 10 from 5 -10 p.m., and June 11 and 12 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Fees are \$20 for pre-test and \$130 for full training.

CALL **240-314-8750** FOR INFO

CITY

1,8,15,22,29 **Out to Lunch Wednesdays** Free concert series and Farmers’ Market every Wednesday during lunchtime in Town Center. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. East Montgomery Avenue. 240-314-5022

3,17 **MOBY Medical Clinic** Primary medical care for low-income, uninsured, working-poor and homeless people in Montgomery County. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

4,11,18,25 **Rockville Growers Only Farmers’ Market** Local farmers and merchants sell fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, flowers and more every Saturday until Oct. 29. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Route 28 and Monroe Street. Free parking. 240-314-5022

10,24 **MOBY Medical Clinic** Primary medical care for low-income, uninsured, working-poor and homeless people in Montgomery County. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Lincoln Park Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

14 **Flag Day Ceremony** City Hall. City officials, veterans and community members commemorate Flag Day. 240-314-5022

14 **Peerless Rockville Lecture Series: “The Rockville Home Front during World War II”** Red Brick Courthouse. A panel of presenters recall Rockville during World War II. 301-762-0096

18 **Off-Leash Dog Testing** Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. 10 a.m. Swim Center Outdoor Entrance Parking Lot. 240-314-8930

25 **Heritage Day Open House and City Tours** Red Brick Courthouse. Peerless Rockville celebrates Rockville’s rich history and diverse cultures. 301-762-0096

ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville’s Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006. Tickets may be purchased online at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre. Service charges apply.

june

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

4 **Ballet Class Recital: “Raymonda”** 1 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE. Tickets required. 240-314-8690

5-28 **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery: “The Evocative Surface”** Reception: Sunday, June 5, 1-4 p.m. Artist talk: Thursday, June 16, 7:30 p.m. Guided tour: Friday, June 17, 10 a.m. FREE. 240-314-8682

5 **Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: “U.S. Navy Band Chamber Ensembles”** 2 p.m. Glenview Mansion Conservatory. FREE. 240-314-8682

5-Oct.16 **“Sculpture on the Grounds” Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit** Civic Center Park grounds. Sunday, June 5, opening reception, 1 p.m. Glenview Mansion. FREE. 240-314-8681

10,11,12,17,18,19 **Victorian Lyric Opera Company: “The Yeomen of the Guard”** 8 p.m. Sun., June 12, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20 adult, \$15 children and seniors. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. 240-314-8690

12 **Rockville Regional Youth Orchestra Concert** 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE, tickets required. 240-314-8690

24,25,26 **The Musical Theatre Center: “Fiddler on the Roof”** Fri. 7:30 p.m. Sat. 4 and 7:30 p.m. Sun. 1 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$15.50 adult, \$13.50 children and seniors. 301-251-5766

28 **Kids, Parks, Performing Arts: “Goombay - The Caribbean Experience”** Contagious energy, pulsating rhythms and upbeat songs combine to create a musical journey. Explore the contributions made by European, African and indigenous peoples in context to music from Jamaica, Trinidad, Cuba, Martinique, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas at this outdoor, family-friendly concert. 7:30 p.m. King Farm Park (Watkins Pond Blvd. at Grand Champion Way). FREE. Rain site: Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8682

NATURE

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.

10 **Bats – Nature’s Bug Zapper** See how many and which species live in our neighborhood. 7:30-8:30 p.m. All ages. \$3 RES/\$4 NR.

16 **Tiny Tot Walk – Bats** In addition to learning about these amazing mammals, read a story, see a short video and make a batty craft. Note: Due to the popularity of Tiny Tot Walks, registration begins June 2. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Ages 1½-2. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

16 **Tyke Hike – Bats** 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

20-24 **Biologist Boot Camp** Discover, research and survey Maryland wildlife in this interactive, hands-on camp. Field trips, guest speakers and individual research projects will guide this exploration into the world of predators, prey, parasites and saprophytes. Note: Some camp hours will differ in order to study wildlife at the ideal time. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ages 9-12. \$275 RES/\$300 NR.

27-July1 **Nature Explorations** Explore different nature topics through hikes, hands-on activities, experiments, crafts and videos. May include field trips off-site by 15-passenger van. 9 am-12 noon. Ages 7-11. \$110 RES/\$125 NR.

SENIORS

All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800

1 **June Birthday and Anniversary Party** 1:30-3:30 p.m. FREE. Register by May 25.

2 **Side Dishes for a Cookout** 10 a.m.-12 noon. \$26 MEM/\$32 NM. Register by May 26.

6,8,15,20 **Photo Editing** 1-3 p.m. \$45 MEM/\$50NM.

6 **Community Corner – By George!** 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by May 30.

6 **D-Day Observance Presentation** 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Register by May 30.

7,9,14,16 **Internet** 10 a.m. –12 noon \$28 MEM/\$33 NM.

7 **Expeditions Westward – National Archives** 10:15-11:15 a.m. FREE. Register by May 31.

7,14 **Watercolor in the Garden** 1-3 p.m. \$16 MEM/\$20 NM. Register by May 31.

13,July11,Aug.8 **Once Upon a Time** 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by June 6.

14 **Monarchs and Milkweed and Croydon...Oh My!** 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$7 MEM/\$10 NM. Register by June 7.

15 **Classical Music Appreciation – Ten Year Favorites** 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Register by June 8.

15 **Funeral Planning** 1-3 p.m. FREE

16 **Why Joint Replacements are Totally Hip** 1-3 p.m. FREE

17,July8,Aug.19 **Short Story Writing** 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Register by June 10.

17 **Grand Old, Star Spangled T-shirt** 1:30-3 p.m. \$12 MEM/\$15 NM. Register by June 10.

21 **Community Corner – Retired U.S. Capitol Deputy Police Chief** 1-2 p.m. FREE. Register by June 14.

21,22 **AARP Defensive Driving** 4:30-8:30 p.m. \$10 fee payable to AARP. Register by June 14.

22 **Bridge Solutions – Double Double Toil and Trouble** 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. FREE. Register by June 15.

30 **Grandma Was Right (eating correctly)** 10 a.m.-12 noon FREE

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

4 **Board of Appeals**, 9:30 a.m.

8 **Planning Commission**, 7 p.m.

8 **Cultural Arts Commission**, 7 p.m., Cottage at Civic Center Park

14 **Commission on the Environment**, 7:30 p.m.

14 **Human Services Advisory Commission**, 7:30 p.m., Senior Center

15 **Sign Review Board**, 4 p.m. (held as needed)

15 **Rockville Housing Enterprises**, 6:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Community Center

15 **Senior Citizens Commission**, 10 a.m., Senior Center

16 **Historic District Commission**, 7 p.m.

16 **Rockville Sister City Corporation**, 7:30 p.m., Senior Center

21 **Rockville Seniors, Inc.**, 1 p.m., Senior Center

21 **Town Center Action Team**, 7 p.m., Room 105, Red Brick Courthouse

22 **Planning Commission**, 7 p.m.

22 **Human Rights Commission**, 7:30 p.m.

23 **Recreation and Parks Advisory Board**, 6 p.m., Tour: Meet at City Hall

24 **Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m., 95 Monroe Street (call 301-315-8096)

28 **Traffic and Transportation Commission**, 7:30 p.m.

Rockville Up Close: Red Hat Society

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

Watch out Rockville. These ladies in the red hats and purple garb are stopping traffic, drawing cheers and whistles and having the time of their lives.

And the best part is they are all age 50 and over.

They are the members of the Red Hat Society, which now boasts about 14 clubs in the Rockville area, according to the group's national Web site www.redhatsociety.org.

What makes the Red Hat Society so popular?

"It's about celebrating life," said Karen Lumpkin, a senior recreation coordinator for the City. "Everyone is so excited to get together and make new friends and enjoy the outings."

According to the national



The Rockin' Red Hatters at the Rockville Senior Center.

Web site, the idea for the Red Hat Society, which encourages women to look forward to life after 50, sprang from a poem that depicts an older woman in purple clothing with a red hat.

With the poem in mind, the group's founder gave a red hat as a birthday gift to a friend. That friend did the same for another friend, and so on. Soon, all of the friends decided to get together periodically for tea. Their group

became so popular, more groups began to form. Now there are thousands of members throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The Rockin' Red Hatters of the Rockville Senior Center are one of the society's chapters in Rockville. The club, which boasts 35 members age 60 and older, meets once each month to plan or participate in activities and have an overall great time. At each meeting, their bright purple out-

fits, large red hats and even feather boas set the fun tone. Since the chapter formed in November, members have taken turns hosting a hat decorating activity, brunch at the Senior Center, tea at Strathmore and watching a play at Ford's Theatre.

On their way to Ford's Theatre, the colorfully clad women attracted a lot of attention. There was a police officer who stopped traffic just to let them cross a street and children cheering and waving from bus windows. On the Metro, some curious riders jumped into their car.

The Rockville Red Hatters were excited to celebrate their golden years in style.

There are no rules for the "red hatters," except a suggestion that those who wish to participate, but are under 50, must wear pink hats and lavender outfits until their "big day."

For more information on the chapter at the Rockville Senior Center, call 240-314-8809. [RR](#)

Volunteer Time: National Night Out

There are many ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations by volunteering in the City. Each month "Volunteer Time" highlights a different opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

One evening each August, Rockville's citizens can be found on closed off City streets and in parks enjoying tasty treats, carnival games and jovial conversation. That evening is the City of Rockville Police Department's National Night Out.

National Night Out is when Rockville joins the nation in recognizing the importance of safety and security in neighborhoods and encourages citizens to step outside and get to know each other.

From moon bounces, music and shared desserts in King Farm to a hamburger and hot-dog cook-out in the Americana Centre courtyard, there are parties small and large throughout the City. But the events don't happen by themselves. They are the work of many behind-the-scenes volunteers.

The Police are searching for even more community volunteers to help make this year's National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 2, the best yet. National Night Out activities generally take place between 6-9 p.m. and volunteering can be as simple as asking neighbors to bring a dish to share at a community picnic. Residents can also take a role in helping the homeowners association organize a community-wide cookout, complete with carnival games for children.

Rockville Police will provide necessary support to all community party hosts, which may include give away items, street barricades, free flyers to promote the event and visits by McGruff the Crime Dog during the party. Hosts also receive a free National Night Out T-shirt and /or hat.

Every community is encouraged to participate. To volunteer to host a block party, or to volunteer on your neighborhood's committee, contact Community Service Officer Jan Seilhamer at 240-314-8922. [RR](#)

2005 Citizen Survey Says: Rockville Is a Great Place to Live

The third biennial Rockville Citizen Survey has left no doubt: City residents think Rockville is a great place to live.

The survey was conducted by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colo. Of those in the random sampling responding, 92 percent said the quality of life in Rockville was "excellent" or "good" and 88 percent said the City was an "excellent" or "good" place to raise children.

Rockville residents may feel so good about living in the city due to their feeling of

safety. Of those responding, 93 percent said they felt "very safe" or "reasonably safe" while "walking alone in your neighborhood during the day."

Basic, but essential services, scored highly. Refuse collection was rated "excellent" or "good" by 86 percent of respondents. Rockville recreation programs and city-sponsored special events were rated "excellent" or "good" by 85 and 84 percent, respectively.

The eight-page 2005 survey was mailed to 3,000 randomly

selected households. Completed surveys were returned at the impressively high rate of 38 percent.

Tom Miller, president of the National Research Center, said results that made Rockville stand out among its national peers included that 71 percent of respondents "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that Rockville "welcomes citizen involvement." This puts Rockville in the 90th percentile nationally.

Items that residents cited as needing improvement were the lack of affordable housing

(68 percent said access to affordable housing was "fair" or "poor") and traffic (rated by 51 percent as either an "extreme," "major" or "moderate" problem).

City Manager Scott Ullery told the Mayor and Council that City staff immediately started work on a plan that would use the survey as a tool to determine where Rockville must improve. Strategies will be developed to target areas of concern.

Results and analysis of the entire survey is available at www.rockvillemd.gov. [RR](#)

TRC 11		THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL JUNE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						✂ --- CLIP & SAVE ---	
		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
12 Midnight until meeting ends		Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	
6 a.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
6:30 a.m.		Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	
7 a.m.		Permit Process	Air Quality Codes	Hi-Tech Patrol	Air Quality Codes	An Informed Citizenry	Permit Process	Permit Process	
7:30 a.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
8 a.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
8:30 a.m.		Mayor & Council ▾	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▾	
9 a.m.		▾	RU: Plan. & Com. Development ▾	An Informed Citizenry	Rockville Senior Center	Hi-Tech Patrol	Every 15 Minutes	▾	
9:30 a.m.		▾	▾	Every 15 Minutes	Caregivers: Basic Needs	Permit Process	Pedestrian and Bike Safety	▾	
10 a.m.		▾	▾	Permit Process	An Informed Citizenry	Pedestrian and Bike Safety	Permit Process	▾	
10:30 a.m.		▾	Rockville Senior Center	Hi-Tech Patrol	Pedestrian and Bike Safety	Rockville Senior Center	Caregivers: Basic Needs	▾	
11 a.m.		Cityline	Caregivers: Basic Needs	Pedestrian and Bike Safety	Every 15 Minutes	An Informed Citizenry	Hi-Tech Patrol	Cityline	
11:30 a.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
12 noon		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
12:30 p.m.		Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	
1 p.m. until meeting ends		Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	Planning Commission ▾	
4 p.m.		An Informed Citizenry	▾	Hi-Tech Patrol	Pedestrian and Bike Safety	▾	An Informed Citizenry	▾	
4:30 p.m.		RU: Plan. & Com. Development ▾	Rockville Senior Center	An Informed Citizenry	Caregivers: Basic Needs	Permit Process	Hi-Tech Patrol	Permit Process	
5 p.m.		▾	Air Quality Codes	Permit Process	Every 15 Minutes	Every 15 Minutes	Caregivers: Basic Needs	Every 15 Minutes	
5:30 p.m.		▾	Caregivers: Basic Needs	Rockville Senior Center	Air Quality Codes	An Informed Citizenry	Pedestrian and Bike Safety	Hi-Tech Patrol	
6 p.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
6:30 p.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
7 p.m.		Planning Commission ▾	Mayor & Council ▾	RU: Plan. & Com. Development ▾	Planning Commission ▾	Rockville Senior Center	Mayor & Council ▾	Rockville Senior Center	
7:30 p.m.		▾	▾	▾	▾	Air Quality Codes	▾	RU: Plan. & Com. Development ▾	
8 p.m.		▾	▾	▾	▾	Permit Process	▾	▾	
8:30 p.m.		▾	▾	Hi-Tech Patrol: Keeping Rockville Safe	▾	Caregivers: Basic Needs	▾	▾	
9 p.m.		▾	▾	An Informed Citizenry	▾	Hi-Tech Patrol	▾	Every 15 Minutes	
9:30 p.m.		▾	▾	Cityline	▾	Cityline	▾	Cityline	
10 p.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	
10:30 p.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	
11 p.m.		Pedestrian and Bike Safety	An Informed Citizenry	Every 15 Minutes	Air Quality Codes	Every 15 Minutes	Caregivers: Basic Needs	Every 15 Minutes	
11:30 p.m.		Air Quality Codes	Every 15 Minutes	Permit Process	Every 15 Minutes	An Informed Citizenry	Rockville Senior Center	Hi-Tech Patrol	



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LARRY GIAMMO

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JOHN F. HALL, JR.,
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